

Friday 22 October 1652.

Col. Martin Reports from the Councill of State Propositions touching the Isle of Jersey, which were this day Read, and were as followeth. (Viz.)

HUMBLY OFFERING,



HAT seeing the Island of Jersey after so great bondage and misery, hath yet through Gods goodnesse at length been so happy as to be reduced out of the hands of a most cruell and tyrannous Enemy, and to be re-conjoynd to the Commonwealth of England. It is humbly propoed (as the most sure bar against Royalty, and the like Prerogatives, to which too many of this Island have been, and still are prone to be seduced withall.)

I. That the Government of the said Island may in all things be restored to its ancient and rightfull constitution, and be freed from all such corrupt Lawes and Customes as have at any time been introduced by Kings, or their interest in prejudice thereof; In order whereunto, and for the more effectual Settlement of the Island, and encouragement to the well-affected there: It is further humbly offered:

II. That the Parliament will be pleased to nominate and appoint five Commissioners Natives of the Island, and to authorize them or any three of them, to make enquiry, and to be satisfied what are the ancient Laws and Rights of that Island, and to command and require obedience thereunto, and to declare whatsoever shall be found contrary thereunto to be void and of none effect; and in speciall manner to take care that all Officers intrusted and to be intrusted with any publique Office, or with the administration of any part of the Government, may be annually and freely elected by the Inhabitants, and no longer to be of continuation during life, as for many years hath been practised to the great oppression and inthrallment of the people. And that Capt. George Carteret, Philip de Carteret his brother, Philip Carteret Esq. of Owen Parish, Amice de Carteret of Trinity Parish, Joshua de Carteret his Brother, Francis de Carteret of Peters Parish, Philip de Carteret of Vincheles de haut, Phillip le Geyt, Lawrence Hamptonne, and John Papon late Jurates, Elias de Carteret the late Kings Attorney, John le Hardy the late Kings Advocate, Edward Hamptonne the late Viscount, and Elias Hues their late Secretary, being, and having been chiefe Actors, and notorious Delinquents against this Commonwealth, may be for ever disabled to bear any Office or Trust in that Island or any other part of the Commonwealth of England, And that all other Delinquents stand disabled for ten years at the least.

III. That the said Commissioners may be impowred to remove any obstructions in the due course of Law, that may fall upon any Suite brought against any of the former Officers of Justice, for either Bribery, Extortion, Cruelty, arbitrary proceedings, or Injustice committed against any of the people; and to see that Law have its due and full execution without respect of persons: That so particular persons, who have been wronged by any of them, may have a free way for satisfaction.

IV. That the Commissioners be impowred to examine all treacherous dealings that may be alledged since they that were intrusted by the Parliament or their Committees as Commissioners there, when Collonell Lideot was sent thither (such having no benefit of the Articles of Surrender) and to deal with them (upon Evidence) as shall stand with Right and Reason.

V. That the said Commissioners may have power to examine all wrongs and sufferings which the well-affected of the Island have undergone for their affections to the Parliament, since the beginning of the Wars of England; And forasmuch as by the Articles granted at the Reducement of Montorguill and Elizabeth Castles, the Delinquents capable of their benefit are not to be questioned for having received the Rents and Revenues of such as have always adhered to the Parliament: Yea, although they have received them ever since the year 1642. to this present year 1652. That therefore the same, with their other Wrongs and Sufferings may be satisfied by the Commissioners out of the Compositions or Forfeiture of Delinquents Estates in that Island, according to former Orders of Parliament granted in that behalfe, dated the eighth of October, 1645.

VI. That all informed unlawfull Contracts or Sales of any part or parcell of the Estates, Rents, Lands, Goods or Chattels belonging to any of the well-affected which have been bought, sold, or ingaged by any Delinquent during the Wars, may by the said Commissioners be declared to be null and void, and the parties grieved to have the benefit of the Lawes in such cases provided: The Articles of Surrender authorizing only lawfull not forcible Contracts.

VII. That the said Commissioners may be impowred to require and take accompts of any persons whomsoever that have raised or received any sums of money, or Rents, from any Delinquents, or otherwaies, since the rendition of the said Island to the Parliament.

VIII. That in case the Parliament thinke fit to continue the number of Souldiers now in the Island, that they may receive their pay, and Billeted, according to the Acts and Rules of Parliament for the same, and not be upon Free-quarter or in private houses, as at present they are, to the heavy burthening of the people, and which if not timely remedied will prove their totall ruine: The care whereof is humbly offered to be referred to the wisdomes of the said Commissioners.

IX. That seeing it is credibly informed that there are severall Pyrates and Pickeroons that daily roves about the said Island, and have since its reduction taken severall Vessells of the inhabitants, to their great losse and damage; And to the end such Piracies, and Robberies may hereafter be prevented: It is further humbly propoed, That two small Frigots may speedily be appointed to goe thither to endeavour by all possible means the hinderance of the same, and in case the Parliament have not the conveniency of sending such Frigots from hence, it may please them to impower the said Commissioners to set forth out of the said Island such Vessells of War, fit for that Expedition, as they shal think necessary; further impowering them to defray the charges of the same out of the Publique Revenues, Compositions, and Forfeitures of the Delinquents Estates of the said Island.

All which particulars being conceived to be of great concernment to the safety and well being of the whole Island, are humbly desired to be taken into the most serious consideration of this Honourable Councill, To whose grave wisdomes in all meekness they are submitted.

Friday the 22th. of October, 1652.

Ordered by the Parliament, That the said Proposals, be referred to the Councill of State, to take them into their consideration, and present their opinion to the Parliament, what is fit to be done in that businessse.

Hen. Scobell Cleric. Parliament.